My Home

Using the following excerpt from *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*, think about how they describe the sights, sounds and smells of their childhood home. Then start by answering the following question: What is your home like? Describe details about how you feel there and what sights, sounds, or smells make you think of home. Point out specific details, landmarks, memories, and any other sensory details. You can also mention where your home is, and if you currently live there. Encourage students to select a genre of their choice and plan an original piece, drafting and revising their work, and working with peers to edit their final composition.

"It was late spring. The sky was deep blue and a breeze was stirring. Blue jays fought among the limbs of the tall elms in our front yard and an occasional feather floated to the ground. Down an embankment beyond the hedge, the blossoming pear trees in the field swayed slightly and white petals drifted through the air. The morning air is warm and laden with smells, heavy fragrance of wistaria [sic] vines which covered half of our front porch and climbed over the roof, whiffs of fresh manure, newly plowed earth and the odor of rotted weeds, stagnant water and pigpens which hung over the Bottoms."